

Minutes of Dublin Darlington Community Council meeting – September 21, 2011

Members attending: Joni Nugent, Donald Thomas, Russ Kovach, J. Alan Thompson, Shirley Thompson, Jim Murphy, and Rich Norling, presiding.

Guests attending: Capt. Keith Warner (Sheriff's office), Denise Lynch (P&Z), Bryna Zumer (Aegis), Lilma Huntley, John Sauers, Bob Riley, Fred Smith

Chair Rich Norling called meeting to order, 7:01pm.

Motion to approve minutes by Donald Thomas, seconded by Joni Nugent; unanimously approved.

Sheriff's Office Report

Sheriff's office representative officer Warner highlighted a busy month for the northern district (the storms in particular making for challenges). Two burglaries in the area highlight the need to keep vigilant about locking doors and cars (copper in particular is a concern due to high costs). Sheriff's office is working with state trucking unit to reduce traffic problems in the town of Darlington and surrounding area. Still a need to communicate with state highways to further address concerns.

Concern was expressed about the intersection of route 161 and Price Road and the mowing of grass on the Hopkins property – authority lies with either state highways or county roads to enforce (not the police department). It may be necessary to remove part of the high embankment at the intersection to improve visibility for cars coming to the intersection on Price Road.

Concern was expressed about speeding along Castleton Road (perhaps related to the opening of the power plant in Delta); recognition was given to the Sheriff's office of their increased patrolling of that section of Castleton Road. Another collision (there have been a few) at Berkley and Castleton due perhaps to the removal of a second stop sign at that intersection north bound. Also the northbound lanes of route 1 at the Berkley road intersection allow for passing, creating a dangerous situation if cars attempt to pass a car turning left onto Berkley from route 1. Lastly the frequently closed weigh station may be contributing to an increase in trucks on local roads that are above the weight limits and size limits; perhaps a 'warning' sign along route 161 and/or 623 into Darlington about the weight and length of trucks would assist with reducing problems and property damage. State highway representatives (along with state truck patrol representatives) will be invited to attend October's Town Hall meeting.

Concern was expressed about the intersection of 161/623 where a truck recently took down a telephone/electric pole blacking out most of the area. Documentation of these types of incidents must be made and used to lobby for changes to highway rules. These types of problems with trucks have been a problem for other communities as well (notably Jarrettsville).

A reminder about the Sheriff office's noise meter to be used in accordance with law. Pat Pudelkewicz 410-638-3103 Chief of Environmental Section of Harford County government can be contacted over concerns of noise and other environmental violations (in accordance with enforcement of MDE rules).

Question about installation of a guard rail on the front of Darlington Cemetery. Issue should be discussed with the Cemetery board.

Special Presentation – Denise Lynch (Dept of Planning on Zoning: 410-638-3104)

Many intersections around the county have been inundated with illegally placed signs. A voluntary removal program is being instituted by the Department of Planning and Zoning modeled after the 'adopt a road' program. Program begins Oct. 1 (coinciding with similar state program). State program can fine, local program cannot (but warning letters will be mailed to known offenders). Contact P and Z to volunteer for the program or for additional information. Any sign on road right-of-way (anything from a utility pole to the road surface) is illegal if not permitted. Signs that are affixed to a utility pole are included in this program, as are any illegal signs that can be easily removed.

Aberdeen Water Permit

Aberdeen has withdrawn its permit request to use Deer Creek water for town use (the existing permit is for APG only). A short discussion ensued discussing the impact of recent rains on local and state waterways (and the bay).

LNG Pipeline

No new news.

New Members

Always welcome!

Speakers for Town Meeting

- 1) Members of State Highways to be invited (as above).
- 2) Local officials?
- 3) Representative from Trucking Organizations (also maybe for future meetings)?
- 4) Representative from lobby for/against the new law requiring sprinkler systems in new Harford County houses (County Council is considering a revision to the new law to exclude single-family homes).
- 5) Possibly somebody to discuss drainage around town (or perhaps at future meetings)?
- 6) Elaine Calderon from the Darlington Apple Festival will be invited.

New Business

The ongoing Charter Review Commission is hard at work, see Aegis for additional information.

Art show supporting Wilson's Center to be held this weekend (Sept. 23/24/25 at the Wilson's Center).

Jim Murphy recognized the hard work of the State Highway department in repainting the 161 bridge over Deer Creek (the effort protected the creek and expertly directed traffic flow across the bridge during work hours).

A moving dedication to the 9-11 memorial at the Dublin Fire Hall was recognized.

Motion to adjourn Joni Nugent, seconded by Donald Thomas. Meeting adjourned 8:16pm.